

## FOR FEMININE READERS

ART OF CONVERSATION SHOULD BE  
LEARNED WITHIN THE FAMILY.Club Women Are Cultivating Orator-  
ical Talent—Easter Clothes and  
Easter Gifts—Various Hints.

I believe that the ordinary family conversation around the dinner table has much to do with the dullness and weariness of "society talk." Says a writer in the New York Post, "There is no reason why any reasonably intelligent party of near relatives should not have a pleasant and profitable exchange of their ideas and opinions and sharpen each other's wits to a very keen edge."

Perhaps a negative course might help and finally take fruitful issue in a very agreeable affirmative. If all discussion of neighborhood gossip could be forbidden, it might be a good beginning. That in family conversation it should be resolved that at dinner time no one should discuss whether Mrs. — had "lost her cook again," or why she could never keep a servant, might prove helpful. That the children should be peremptorily stopped when ready to disclose the discoveries of their keen eyes; that the out of the new garment, the new extravagance of the neighbor's rumor of impending failure, should be entirely eliminated from table talk, would force conversation into new channels.

The encouragement to older children, especially lads approaching their college days, to be interested in and understand public events, and to be able to talk sensibly in regard to them, would seem a very easy beginning from which to learn the deep interest that appertains to the daily story of the nations. Their fresh and unsophisticated, "first hand" impressions of current events, often put in the hands of the older into a new light, which reveals truth. The interchange of thoughts between father and sons, mother and daughters, on the politics of their own country, its best ambitions and its greatest dangers, would quickly qualify them to go forth as missionaries into the sad, waste places, where in the price of the grocer's gift to yesterday's bride, or the property or impropriety of a neighbor's purchase of a new home serve as the staple of social intercourse.

It should be made as clear to a child's mind as the sin of telling an untruth, that speaking of and surmising the failures of others is a terrible wrong. Very definite instructions should be given to every child's education on this matter, and gossip concerning the lives of their playmates' families and the repetition of unpleasant suspicions, be sharply stopped. That "Tommy Cradell's father has lost all his money, and that they have to go away," may be a very interesting fact—albeit it clearly is every one's business to know it. But it should be made to understand that he must not announce it at the breakfast table, even if Tommy's cousin did tell him yesterday at school.

To avoid personalities of every sort except those pleasant happenings which make men and women care more for each other and rouse kind feeling is but an introduction to what ought to be a drama of civilized society.

One does not want to talk on stills and reduce familiar loving chat to the pedantic, stilted sentences of a bore, but, like all unattractive habits in a child's young life, principle must take root to make character, and the easiest way to insure that any young person never makes a habit of talking on stills is to make the abhorrence of gossip a fundamental groundwork in education.

Spontaneous, modest, intelligent small talk, such as relieves dullness and refreshes strangers who are temporarily in contact, makes the home more cheerful and to flow, and it can only come from familiarity with subjects of general interest.

One of the most common faults of conversation is the use of the word "I" too often. Some of them in the natural interchange of thought in one's own home. So studiously are we making ourselves, our ailments, diet, household trials a groundwork of chat when there are so many delightful topics on which to exchange ideas in a more modest and self-disciplined than we are at all aware. There are always the few in whom we can trust for sympathy and for these we should reserve our confidences on these absorbing topics. I really believe that American women who are inclined to be impatient at the convention much interest have been taken in vocal chords of late, and the eulogistic members of clubs are looked upon with envy by their fellow-members, as more likely to figure on the Milwaukee programme than the weak-voiced writers of papers, no matter how brilliant. Club women cannot be called the "striking sisterhood" with any justice, for few of them have any voices at all. They can make a good deal of noise when several of them speak at once—the favorite and customary "outburst" in most instances it is as easy to understand what each one is saying who they speak simultaneously as when each member has her say undisturbed on the platform. Study sessions to two or three women who can be heard from the back of the room, where Sorosis delivers itself of its startling orations, is a more effective method of teaching elocution than the "S. S. S." given to squeaking voices and "accents" which are better left unheard, and the D. R., as a society, is more aggressive than the Milwaukee programme, and take a few lessons in elocution before delivering their maiden speeches, but stage fright usually comes from a lack of confidence, graceful, easy delivery of impassioned periods. It has remained for the new Century Club of Milwaukee to take the much-needed initiative in having a speaking-voice class as a regular part of club study. In this class an effort is made to teach elocution, effect—which is a more educated form of hysteria—but rather the proper use of the voice. This does not mean that the club women who are given to a loud, but its projection in a most natural manner to the remotest corner of the room. There are some club women who could not be made into effective speakers in a thousand years, and they are wise if they do not attempt to do so. Lines and snatches whatever consolation they may from Mrs. Humphrey Ward, who said, "You can't speak your mind. It is something that is not possible to do. The unhappy day is past when the platform woman who goes through a little pantomime and is called a speaker. The woman who will receive even insincere applause."

**Kitchen Conveniences.**  
Philadelphia Times.  
The small inconveniences of a kitchen are not to be overlooked by the housekeeper until in some emergency she is herself obliged to turn kitchen maid. Then she discovers how much unnecessary effort is entailed because of some trifling fault or omission in the kitchen equipment. A broken range lid that has to be fitted constantly, the absence of a lid handle, necessitating the inefficient service of the poker, the outside door which is not easily opened, a window that does not go quite up and permits draughts while standing at the sink, a sink which has sagged a little out of place, so that the water runs down rather than towards the outlet, a scarcity of dish-towels—these and many other trifling inconveniences are often neglected by the mistress, are carelessly neglected by the maid, and are not noticed by the frequently and intelligently inspected. The kitchen, and the convenience of no person in the house, so far as the accomplishment of her work is concerned, should be put above that of the cook.

**The Privileges of Middle Age.**  
Harper's Bazar.  
In another fashion it is the privilege of the middle-aged woman to keep in touch with to-day. She should find it her pleasure, as it is her obligation, not to be a wet blanket upon the good times of the young, and to maintain close relation with nephews and nieces, with young people who are growing up, and with all the generation that is coming on the stage. As we lose interest in those who are younger than ourselves, as we settle contentedly down in the conviction that wisdom shall be the guide, and that to be a thrifty, thrifty organism, and to every practical purpose become the merest petrification. Being in touch with to-day need not lead a

fancy which the linen has supplanted with good effect. Wearing of this white linen with insertions of drawn work or colored embroidery for decoration are a specialty among the new imported models and the chic thing to have you are anxious to be up to date. There is a mixture of linen and silk also popular for gowns.

Wool and silk combinations forms the basis on some of the new veiling and foudral silk demand. The wide draped belt is still a favorite, but it is not so popular as the figure very closely, so that the fullness of the bodice in front sets out a little above this. Sometimes the belt extends down below the waist line a little way, forming a narrow yoke into which the skirt is gathered and pinned.

**For Easter Gifts.**  
Country Gentleman.

Apologies of unmounted photographs at Berkeley (Cal.) girl has invented a way of using these that is certain to become very popular. The grounds at Berkeley are famous by reason of the very beautiful old, gnarled live oaks which embellish them, and no student will ever leave the university without taking with him photographs of these historic trees. Choose a piece of suede leather about 10x14 or of any given size according to the number of sketches you intend to mount. Work the background is not cut with a ruler, but is of charming irregularity as to corners. A piece of pasteboard two inches smaller all around than the largest regular parallelogram that could be drawn on the leather is pasted on the back and the extra size is caught down in the folds with thongs of leather. Small photographs 2x3 are then pasted over the leather and the collage is etched on in the burr of the pen, the devotee of the kodak this is a pretty way of sending choice views to a friend.

Suede leather is also a most satisfactory background for glass cases. Blenheim's cherubs single, in pairs or in groups of three or four mounted on dark green or rich red leather, with a piece of the leather in the corners knotted down with a leather thong tied in a bowknot, make an artistic and useful gift. The right of the dressing table. Medallions of the musical composers or the authors can be mounted in the same way. These little heads and medallions cost but 25 cents each, and even unmounted may serve as an Easter greeting to an absent friend, and one that will be a never failing source of pleasure, whereas the Easter card of commerce is neither "a thing of beauty" nor "a joy forever."

But when all is said, the utilitarian pin cushion will still hold its own. The very best, and I think quite the prettiest and most sensible thing in the way of a cushion for a dressing table consists simply in a box of three or four-inch ribbon. A yard of the former or a yard and a quarter of the latter is sufficient. Tie in a tight bowknot with ends. Make two little bags stuffed with bran or sawdust, and stick them in the bows, using thin silk of the same color as the ribbon for an outer covering. These are quite concealed by the bows, and the ribbon will not show. The ribbon is made from two embroidered handkerchiefs, as inexpensive as as costly as you please of course, but ten-cent handkerchiefs with effective embroidered designs make up for the lack of the more expensive. Carry a half-inch ribbon on the wrong side of each at one end; sew the other three corners of the ribbon to the center of the front, run in a shirring, and you have a gift that any friend will appreciate.

**Club Women Learning to Speak.**  
New York Commercial Advertiser.  
People with sensitive ears will be glad to learn that no woman will be permitted to speak at the biennial convention of club women, to take place at Milwaukee, in June, unless she can prove to the satisfaction of the platform committee that she has a "speaking voice." As at least three thousand delegates are expected to be present at the convention much interest has been taken in vocal chords of late, and the eulogistic members of clubs are looked upon with envy by their fellow-members, as more likely to figure on the Milwaukee programme than the weak-voiced writers of papers, no matter how brilliant. Club women cannot be called the "striking sisterhood" with any justice, for few of them have any voices at all. They can make a good deal of noise when several of them speak at once—the favorite and customary "outburst" in most instances it is as easy to understand what each one is saying who they speak simultaneously as when each member has her say undisturbed on the platform. Study sessions to two or three women who can be heard from the back of the room, where Sorosis delivers itself of its startling orations, is a more effective method of teaching elocution than the "S. S. S." given to squeaking voices and "accents" which are better left unheard, and the D. R., as a society, is more aggressive than the Milwaukee programme, and take a few lessons in elocution before delivering their maiden speeches, but stage fright usually comes from a lack of confidence, graceful, easy delivery of impassioned periods. It has remained for the new Century Club of Milwaukee to take the much-needed initiative in having a speaking-voice class as a regular part of club study. In this class an effort is made to teach elocution, effect—which is a more educated form of hysteria—but rather the proper use of the voice. This does not mean that the club women who are given to a loud, but its projection in a most natural manner to the remotest corner of the room. There are some club women who could not be made into effective speakers in a thousand years, and they are wise if they do not attempt to do so. Lines and snatches whatever consolation they may from Mrs. Humphrey Ward, who said, "You can't speak your mind. It is something that is not possible to do. The unhappy day is past when the platform woman who goes through a little pantomime and is called a speaker. The woman who will receive even insincere applause."

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person to embrace every new fad and carry which is borne upon the breeze, while at the same time it will induce a tolerant hearing for the novelty, even if later it be courted and rejected. "Who is sure of herself need not fear to listen to whatever may be told her, and best of all, she need not turn away from anything which may have in it a germ of truth, and be therefore worthy of respect."

**Pillows Produce Wrinkles.**  
Philadelphia Telegraph.

The pillow has now come under the ban of the physical culturist, and henceforth the model bedroom must show no trace of them. High authorities in this domain say that not even worry make a woman grow wrinkled and old so soon as sleeping on a pillow. To grow young, healthy, and beautiful (think of it), lie on your back with your head on the floor and your feet on a pillow. The theory is that during the day, when the head is held in its normal position, the muscles of the face droop, and when the head is on a pillow, the wrinkles come. At night this drooping of the muscles should be corrected. The head should be lifted up. By sleeping with the head on a level with the body, or better still, with the head on the floor, the wrinkles which give an expression of care and age to the face will in time disappear.

**Odors and Ends.**  
A few drops of alcohol mixed with a little olive oil is a good remedy for two and one-half parts of oil to a half part alcohol is a better mixture with which to rub polished tables and the like. The alcohol cuts and takes off any grease, dust or trifling stain.

A hint in the use of hot-water bags is gained from a trained nurse. Very little water is used, not more than a coffee cupful in a three-part bag, but it is very hot. Before the stopper is screwed in, the air is pressed out of the bag by a quick smoothing of the hand toward the opening; in this way the weight is considerably reduced. The nurse also advises against putting a pneumonia patient kept in use during the severity of the attack six of the bags, three of them upon the patient's back and three of the critical two or three days the bags were changed every fifteen minutes, but so light were they that their weight did not in the least inconvenience the sufferer.

A paper-hanger furnishes a useful hint of the expert way to patch wall-paper. Never cut the paper for the patch, for then it is sure to show where it is joined. After the patch has been applied tear the paper, pulling it away from under the right side, and leaving the paper thin at the edge. The color of the paper on top, and when smoothly pasted over the break, or defacement, the joint will not show. If the paper is torn before the patch is applied, the edge, being thin, gets too wet from the paste, and is apt to pull away from the wall, leaving a quarter of the former or a quarter of the latter. If the paper which it is desired to patch has become faded, put the new paper in the strong sunlight for a day or two, to tone down its color.

The empire and wattleau styles are being pushed into special prominence for use during the coming summer, says a New York writer. A few models in wattleau fashion have already appeared, the panniers being much more than pretty suggestions of the style, and are merely by outlining the hips, fringes or by means of a deft manipulation of the skirt drapery from the hips toward the back of the gown. Neither of these forms of dress, the writer thinks, appeal to women of our time, as appropriate for the new lace, mits and a quarter of the former or a quarter of the latter. If there is now a certain brisk, business-like air about the gown that suits the women of to-day who do not live the life of the former, the new lace, mits and a quarter of the former or a quarter of the latter. If there is now a certain brisk, business-like air about the gown that suits the women of to-day who do not live the life of the former, the new lace, mits and a quarter of the former or a quarter of the latter.

Elbow sleeves appear again on many of the French models designed either for full dress or demi-dress wear, and these call for either the new lace, mits and a quarter of the former or a quarter of the latter. If there is now a certain brisk, business-like air about the gown that suits the women of to-day who do not live the life of the former, the new lace, mits and a quarter of the former or a quarter of the latter. If there is now a certain brisk, business-like air about the gown that suits the women of to-day who do not live the life of the former, the new lace, mits and a quarter of the former or a quarter of the latter.

**THE JOURNAL'S POEMS.**

**A Little Bird Told Me.**

A little bird told me,  
A poor, dead, little bird,  
Though motionless its form,  
Its song no longer heard—  
A little bird told me,  
It had no need of speech;  
More eloquent than words,  
And greater in its reach  
Is silence oftentimes;  
So spoke the bird to me  
Of woman's thoughtfulness,  
Of man's cupidty.

O woman, kind of heart,  
If kind, how can you bear  
Deeming it ornament,  
A murdered bird to wear?  
O woman's thoughtfulness,  
In silence death has brought  
A little bird told me.  
—Eliza L. Brown.

**Morning Thoughts.**

If we could think our morning thoughts,  
Clear sighted, full of hope,  
With yester evening's wisdom filled,  
Eager anxious to cope  
With all the old hard things anew—  
If we could think them when  
The day most often is so dim,  
Earth would be heaven then.

Yet when the twilight settles down  
In silence vast and dim,  
We pray the new day may set right  
The things the old left wrong;  
And though we love the evening—  
What other time so fair?  
It would be vain to wish for  
Our morning thoughts were there.

**A Spring Dream.**

He rose into the soft deceptive blue,  
A dreamy dimly seen—unknown,  
Until he poised as though afloat on anemone,  
With quivering wings bent archly. Then I saw  
The crimson tremor of his breast—a flash  
Upon the half-awakened sky—the last  
Deep breath of the wind—the last  
And as I watched him revel round the light;  
And face the evening's purplish glow,  
I thought how much reflective power is turned  
To meet the cold—how many flights unseen  
Because the richer parts are hid below,  
Or sadly ruffled by the beating wind,  
Lebanon, Ind. —J. Milton McKinley.

**History, Fiction and Poetry.**

How happy is the man whose ready pen  
Records the deeds of heroes, the lives of men  
They happy he who with heaven-born skill  
Can create worlds and people them at will.  
But he alone doth reach beatitude  
Who can express his own heart's changing mood—  
Pour out its longings, love and grief reveal,  
And voice the others who are not out,  
Evansville, Ind. —Albion Fellows Bacon.

**When Shadows Gather.**

When shadows gather and the rain drops fall,  
When hope decays, when love comes not at call,  
When bold ambition bows beneath the weight of care,  
When loved ones rest in peace below the sod:  
Then must we turn, O Lamb of God, to Thee,  
Teach me the way, oh path the path to me,  
Where, free from earthly envy, pride and strife,  
We rest our souls upon Thy perfect life.  
—Indiana.

**A Wholesome Harmony.**

Plato.  
Did you ever observe the effect on the mind of exclusive devotion to gymnastics or to music? The one produces a temper of hardness and ferocity, the other softness and effeminacy. And as there are the two principles of human nature, one the spirited that of forceful energy, and the other philosophical (that of thought and reason) some god, as I should say, has given mankind two arts answering to them (and only indirectly to the soul and body) and has made two principles (like the strings of an instrument) may be relaxed or drawn tighter until they are harmonized.

## THE VOICE OF THE PULPIT

PREACHING MANHOOD: TRUE PRACTICAL AND DOCTRINAL LIFE.

By Rev. A. J. Rowland, D. D., Secretary  
American Baptist Publication  
Society, Philadelphia, Pa.

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong; let all your things be done with love.—I. Cor. xvi, 13-14.

To the casual reader these words of the great apostle doubtless seem to be only very warm, but disconnected, exhortations, void of logical connection between them. The Christian life is both practical and doctrinal, and should be both defensive and aggressive. Supposing, now, that the apostle is desirous of urging the development of a complete Christian life and character; we see at once that his sharp and stirring sentences are admirably grouped to accomplish that design.

"Watch ye" is an exhortation to maintain a defensive practical life, and "stand fast in the faith" one to maintain as well a defensive doctrinal life. "Quit you like men" looks to aggressive practical life, and "be strong" to aggressive doctrinal life. And then, as in the maturing of character there is need of the general governing principle of love, the exhortation follows: "Let all your things be done in love."

In other words, Paul has before his eyes in the writing of these words, a true Christian manhood which not only defends itself against the temptations of practical life and maintains itself on the basis of aggressive work for humanity, and its constantly strengthening and enlarging its doctrinal views, and which is to be brought to its highest possible development under the rule of love.

Inasmuch as the attainment of such a manhood or character is the goal which God has set before every human being, it will be well for us to consider these several precepts include and involve.

**PRACTICAL AND DOCTRINAL.**

First, then, in order to reach true manhood we must maintain a defensive practical life—watch. Every man occupies the position of an army in the enemy's country. All around him are foes. There are three corps of these under the command of three most successful generals—the world, the flesh and the devil. Unless he defend himself against these foes his Christian life will amount to nothing, and attainment of the highest manhood—a true Christian manhood—is an impossibility. The first duty laid upon us, then, is to be watchful.

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## A Week of Big Bargains

LACE CURTAINS

68 pairs Nottingham, \$3.50, now \$1.98  
187 pairs Nottingham, \$4, now \$2.75  
48 pairs Nottingham, \$5, now \$3.93  
63 pairs Irish Points,